

Security Act, which was built in by the Senate with the bill that they passed.

Again, the Senate has acted; the Senate passed a bill. They have a bill which extends crop insurance for 5 years. So for all those farmers out in the Midwest who have seen their corn crops literally burn up in a historic drought, the fact of the matter is they have absolutely no idea about what the future holds because this Chamber will not take up a farm bill and do its constitutional duty and get its work done.

Again, the post office, which fell into not just technical but actual real bankruptcy a month ago because of the structure of its pension costs, the Senate has passed a postal reform bill which adjusts the finances of that system, again, with bipartisan support and will allow the postal service to have some confidence that its operations and its post offices around the country can have some modicum of a future. This Chamber will not take up a postal reform bill between now and this Friday or for the following 7 weeks.

These are just two basic, sort of fundamental, programs which, in the past, Congress has done on a bipartisan basis without any of the drama and stress that the Speaker's decision to quit, to use Coach Lombardi's phraseology, is now creating. There are much larger issues, of course, which everyone is waiting for this Congress to act on.

Sequestration: I have shipyard workers in Groton, Connecticut, who get up every morning to build nuclear submarines. They don't know whether or not on January 1, whether the chain saw set up in the sequestration mechanism is going to go through the defense budget.

We have a fiscal cliff whereby middle class families don't know what their tax rates are going to be after January. We have physician fees under the Medicare program which, again, fall off a cliff on January 1.

With all of these issues hanging out there, we still, though, have a Republican leadership in the House which has made the decision to go home on Friday for the next 7 weeks.

Again, Coach Lombardi had it right: winners never quit and quitters never win. This leadership is quitting, not only on the Members that are prepared to roll up their sleeves and compromise and do hard work to get measures like the farm bill and the postal bill and budget policy settled once and for all. They are quitting on the American people. That is unacceptable leadership for the trust, the public trust with which they have been given.

This morning's New York Times has a story: "Congress Nearing the End of a Session Where Partisan Input Impeded Output," and they show the numbers that this is the least productive Congress in a century.

Back when Harry Truman was President, he campaigned against the do-nothing Congress. That Congress enacted 906 bills in the 2 years during

which it was convened. As of this week, this Congress has enacted 173, a quarter of the do-nothing Congress which Harry Truman made infamous and famous in American history.

We can do better as a Nation. We can get a farm bill passed. We can pass a postal reform bill which will keep that system alive. We can do budget policy. We can create a horizon for this country, which the American people sent us here to do, not go home and campaign.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray this day, O Lord, for peace in our world, that freedom will flourish and righteousness will be done.

The attention of our Nation is drawn toward an impending election, but there is work yet to be done.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House that they might judiciously balance seemingly irreconcilable interests. Help them to execute their consciences and judgments with clarity and purity of heart so that all might stand before You honestly and trust that You can bring forth righteous fruits from their labors.

Bless this day and every day, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

BRING OUR TROOPS HOME IN 2013

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today I had the privilege and honor to visit Walter Reed Hospital to say thank you to our wounded from Afghanistan and Iraq, and I saw those who have lost both arms and legs. It's just so sad to go there.

That brings me today to the floor to thank the chairman of the Armed Services Appropriations Committee, C.W. "Bill" Young, who has come out and said it's time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan, and I quote:

I think we should remove ourselves from Afghanistan as quickly as we can.

Mr. Speaker, that brings me to a couple of comments. I called a former commandant of the Marine Corps 3 years ago and asked him to advise me on Afghanistan, and he has, and he has been very loyal. I want to read his comments:

I am more convinced than ever that we need to get out of Afghanistan. When our "friends" turn out to be our "enemy," it is time to pull the plug. We are now nothing more than a recruiting poster for every malcontent in the Middle East. We need to wake up.

I would say to the Speaker, I would say to the leadership of the Republican Party, join us in bringing our troops home in the year 2013. No more should die for a lost cause like Afghanistan.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, in 1992, the Food and Drug Administration decided that genetically modified organisms were the functional equivalent of conventional foods.

They arrived at this decision without testing GMOs for allergenicity, toxicity, antibiotic resistance, and functional characteristics. As a result, hundreds of millions of acres of GMO crops were planted in America without the knowledge or consent of the American people, no safety testing, no long-term health studies.

The FDA has received over a million comments from citizens demanding labeling of GMOs. Ninety percent of Americans agree.

Why no labeling? I'll give you one reason. The influence and the corruption of the political process by Monsanto. Monsanto has been a prime mover in GMO technology, a multi-million dollar GMO lobby here and a major political contributor. There is a chance that Monsanto's grip will be